THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"The time shall come when all shall see the salvation of the Lord; when every nation, kindred, tongue, and people shall see eye to eye and shall confess before God that his judgments are just." BOOK OF MORMON, MOSIAH 16 : 1.

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IDENTIFICATION MARKS OF THE LAST DAYS*

PRESIDENT CHARLES W. NIBLEY

I THINK, my brethren and sisters, that we are to be congratulated on this blessed Sabbath Easter morn in having the great privilege and honour as servants of the Lord in His Church to meet together under such favourable circumstances, knowing that the work of the Lord is spreading, increasing and becoming a great power for righteousness and for the well-being of mankind in the world.

I am mindful that I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; that my parents heard the word gladly from the Elders who were delivering the message of "Mormonism"; that they received and accepted it with full purpose of heart, and that they remained faithful and devoted to the end. I am proud of this organization, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

. . . .

In these last days the Lord has established His Church upon the earth for the last time. How do we know that these are the last days? There are many signs of the times by which we may know of this fact. I have not time to go into all that fully, but just hastily to call your attention to the prophecy of Daniel, twelfth chapter, fourth verse. Speaking of the time of the end he said that "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Now imagine what there was in the way of running

*From an address delivered at the fifth session of the Ninety-eighth Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., April 8th, 1928.

to and fro in his day, and all the succeeding centuries down to the last one hundred years, when the revelation from Almighty God came to the Prophet Joseph Smith. There were not many running to and fro in the earth in those days. Now, in contrast, how many run to and fro on the earth, on the sea, under the sea? . . . What a change, what a marvelous change from the slow old movement of even a hundred years ago or less!

Then again, knowledge, he said, would be increased. How wonderfully has that been fulfilled! It was to be increased in the latter times, as distinctive from the former times. We have books by the millions; newspapers, periodicals, magazines—knowledge on every hand. Then look in the last one hundred years, or one hundred eight years, since the first revelation, the great revelation and manifestation, came to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Even the railroad was not in general use in 1820. From that time on, how knowledge has been increased on every hand—inventions by the tens of thousands, going on and on, until we have the marvelous and wonderful radio—my voice going out now on the air! It goes around the world seven times in a second, so that people in any part of the United States who are within hearing distance of this ether wave, as we call it, will hear my voice as instantly as you hear it in this building. A marvelous and wonderful invention! It is not because the mind of man is more acute in this age than in any former ages, for the scientists agree that the mind of man was quite as acute in the days of Abraham and in the days while the Saviour was upon the earth as it is now. But those were not the days and times mentioned in the scriptures, which were called the last days and the fulness of times.

THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

The Lord, through Joel the prophet, said: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." The Lord has poured out His Spirit upon the people everywhere. And His Spirit is intelligence. "The glory of God is intelligence." And man, even an unbeliever whose mind is operated upon to invent this or the other for the benefit of mankind, is acted upon by that intelligent influence which we name the Spirit of the Lord, whether he is an Edison or any other man. All intelligence comes from God—in other words, light and truth, as the scriptures say. So that these inventions which have been multiplied in a most marvelous manner have been brought about through the operation of the Spirit of the Lord.

In the fourteenth chapter of the Revelation of St. John we read of the coming of this latter-day work by the hands of an angelic messenger. John the Apostle, the beloved, banished on the Isle of Patmos for the testimony of Jesus, was then the only one remaining upon the earth, the other disciples by this time having gone to the great beyond. The angel of the Lord told him: "Come up hither, and I will shew thee things that must be hereafter,"

What did the angel show him? Marvelous things. Among others was this, which was to come to pass after that time:

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come.

This was to be in the hour of God's judgment—drawing near to the end, you see—in the days spoken of by Joel and Daniel, when knowledge should be increased and many should run to and fro. In other words, in the last days—the set time in which all things are to be consummated.

THIS CHURCH STANDS ALONE

In 1820 there was no divinely organized Church of Jesus Christ, with power and authority of the Priesthood, on this earth. The organization of the Church did not take effect till some ten years later—April 6th, 1830. From the time of John the Revelator up to 1820 we affirm—we make the positive declaration, we are convinced in our hearts and souls, for we have had it revealed unto us by the power of the Holy Ghost—there was no organized Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth, with the authority of the Priesthood to take a man down into the water and baptize him, that his sins might be remitted, or to lay hands upon his head and confirm him a member and confer upon him the gift of the Holy Ghost. So that this Church stands alone with respect to that.

We have no contention against any Church or any people. There are many, many thousands of good people in the world, millions of them, indeed, who are faithful believers in their own way. But the Church of Christ as an organization—something through which the Lord operates by His power and Spirit—did not in modern times exist until this Church was organized. So that we may say that any other church claiming that authority, claiming the authority to bind on earth and it is bound in heaven, is not recognized by the Lord, for He Himself has declared that this Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth."

NOT FOUNDED ON MEN

I know it is claimed that there has been direct succession from Peter, the great Apostle—Peter, the President of the Twelve, the head, the leader, than whom in many respects there was no greater Apostle. We honour him. The latchet of his shoes I would say I am not worthy to unloose. But he was human. This Church is not built upon Peter. It is not the Church of Joseph Smith, nor the Church of Brigham Young, nor the Church

of President Grant. It is not founded on men. It was founded by direct revelation from heaven. Let me read what the Lord said with respect to this:

When Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias: and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What rock? The rock of revelation; for flesh and blood had not told Peter, but it had been revealed to him that Jesus was the Christ.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Of course he did. He was the proper man to give them to, the President of the Twelve.

And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

THE HUMAN PETER

Now right here Peter, the human being, on whom was conferred this great authority—just as to-day by divine appointment is conferred that same power on President Heber J. Grant, the President of this Church, a human being like you and me, and like Peter—right at this point I read: "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him [Peter the human being, undertaking to rebuke the Saviour] saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." We will not allow these men to take you and kill you—what was the answer of the Saviour?

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. See Matthew 16: 13-23.

That was the human Peter, as all men are human. Joseph Smith, great as he was, the forerunner, the man chosen, probably before the foundations of this earth were laid, to usher in the great and last dispensation of the fulness of times, was human. He was Joseph Smith; he was not God. This Church is not

founded on him any more than on Peter, to whom the Saviour had to say: "Get thee behind me, Satan." You do not know what you are talking about, Peter.

So I repeat that the rock upon which this Church is founded is the rock of revelation. What is revelation? If you will turn to your Doctrine and Covenants, in the eighth section, you will find this definition of revelation. The Lord speaks to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery:

Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation; behold, this is the spirit by which Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground.

Do we have revelations to-day? Is President Grant guided by revelation? Certainly, just in that way—ready to receive the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord as they shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost. Have we the same power and the same opportunity to receive the spirit of revelation? Certainly we have. Why, every member of this Church, every last one who is living as he should, keeping the commandments of God, receives that testimony, and is thereby founded upon that rock which flesh and blood hath not delivered unto him, but which our Father in heaven has revealed unto him. And upon this rock He builds His Church.

NOT WITH ENTICING WORDS OF MAN'S WISDOM

There isn't time to go into further discussion of this matter. I will have to hurry, but I want to read what St. Paul said in respect to the resurrection of Christ, and I think it fits me and fits every member of the Priesthood—in going out to proclaim the Gospel, stick just to the one great text. St. Paul said to the Corinthians, second chapter: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech." We are not depending so much on that, though we are glad to hear excellency of speech. Yes, even Paul the learned said:

When I came to you, [I] came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

That is "Mormonism." Stick to the one message—Jesus Christ and Him crucified; Joseph Smith receiving the everlasting Gospel from angelic beings, as John on the Isle of Patmos declared,

coming at the time of the end when all these things are being fulfilled.

Just one other citation that I want to give you and then I am through. In the Book of Mormon we have a prophecy of the time of the end. You will find it in the fourteenth chapter of First Nephi. I have not time to read the whole chapter: "And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me: Rememberest thou the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel?"—the covenants that had been made to Abraham, not yet fulfilled, but in the way of fulfilment. The time is here, the covenants are being fulfilled. General Allenby, in the World War, marched into Palestine and freed that country from its oppressors, and since then that work has been going on. That is what the angel a thousand years ago asked Nephi in that question:

Rememberest thou the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel? I said unto him, Yea.

And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look, and behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose foundation is the devil.

I skip now some verses to hurry on.

And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth.

Let me call your attention to this fact, that until the World War all the nations and kindreds of the earth had never been involved in one great war before.

When Columbus discovered America, he found the new world, so that prior to that time all the nations and all the kindreds of the earth could not be involved in war together. Since 1492 we have the most accurate history of all the wars, and all the nations and kindreds of the earth were for the first time involved in this great struggle.

And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; and behold, thou seest all these things—

And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil, then, at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants, which he hath made to his people who are of the house of Israel.

Now the question will come: Define that church—what church is it? The Lord defines it; you can tell. Find any church that is great, that is abominable, whose foundation is the devil, and

upon which the wrath of God is poured out in the last days, and then you have it. I can not define it any other way.

The Lord help us to know, by the power of revelation, that this is His Church, that it is not founded upon Peter or Paul or Joseph or Heber or any other human being, but only upon the power and authority of the living God, and upon the solid rock of revelation from Almighty God. Amen.

SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

THE LAST of the fifteen District Spring Conferences of the British Mission was held in Glasgow on Sunday, June 3rd, the meetings convening at the Blythswood Halls, 236 Great Western Road. Under a kindly-warm sun members and friends of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gathered from various parts of Scotland to hear words of truth, old yet new, such as were spoken by Mission President John A. Widtsoe and Sister Leah D. Widtsoe, with missionaries and resident members. The morning session had as its theme "The Visions of Joseph Smith", which became the keynote of the conference throughout, by the many who addressed the assemblies.

The afternoon session, which convened at 2:p.m., was characterized by the same uplifting spirit that was part of the morning meeting, and which continued throughout the evening assembly. President William Cooke, who has acted faithfully and effectively for nearly two years as President of the Scottish District, was honourably released to return to his home and loved ones in Salt Lake City. Elder Carl W. Buchanan was sustained by the vote of the members and missionaries present to act in the place of President Cooke, as President of the Scottish District.

At the concluding session of the conference Sister Widtsoe bore testimony to the soul-satisfying assurance that comes through obedience to the Gospel and answers the vital questions and problems of life. President Widtsoe among other things told of the part the Nation of Great Britain has taken in the advancement of the interests of the world, it being a leader in assuring the rights of tolerance, freedom of speech and such principles. He also explained that the Gospel is not a code of ethics, but is as a burning fire—a living vital force.

The conference was attended by President and Sister Widtsoe, Eudora Widtsoe and Elder Richard L. Evans, from the Liverpool office, and President William Cooke, President Carl W. Buchanan, Elders Robert K. Whyte, J. Ross Smith, Golden W. Stewart, Lawrence S. Crosbie, Louis S. Leatham and Willis E. Bean of the Scottish District, and President Charles E. Alsop, Elders Richard L. Bird, Jr., Wayne L. Shaw and Fred L. Finlinson of the Newcastle District.

CARL W. BUCHANAN, District President

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1928

EDITORIAL

A CHILDREN'S JUBILEE

The Primary Association of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints celebrated during the week of June 8th, 9th and 10th, the fiftieth anniversary of its founding. The Church rejoices in the progress of this useful and successful organization. The honour shown the Primary Association on the occasion of its Jubilee is but a slight mark of the appreciative regard in which it is held by the people.

Fifty years ago, a small handful of children were gathered for religious guidance under the leadership of Sister Aurelia S. Rogers; to-day, the enrollment of the Primary Association numbers more than one hundred thousand boys and girls under about twelve years of age. Then the work was confined to one ward in the Church; now there is a Primary organization in practically every ward and in numerous branches of the missions. Its widening influence has entered the homes of the Church until to-day hosts of mature men and women, many of them leaders among the people, bear witness to the beneficial direction of their lives by the Primary Association.

The movement began simply. Loving teacher and soul-hungry child formed the organization; and the labour was directed by the spirit of the occasion. This simplicity still continues; but for more effective use of time and energy, skilfully organized and interesting courses of procedure have been formulated. Through head-work and hand-work, by study and busy work, in song and prayer, truthful conceptions and sound habits are safely established. A well-edited and most readable monthly magazine, *The Children's Friend*, is the helpful companion of Primary teacher and children, and other helps are provided. The tender mother-heart, unable to forget the little ones who suffer from physical disability, finds expression in the Children's Home, which gives medical skill, hospital care and the Primary spirit to those who are under the burden of physical suffering or incompetence. This institution is supported in part by the tiny but loving gifts of the children whose bodies are sound and whole.

The women who have served, voluntarily, as officers and teachers have made possible the success of the Primary Association. Busy women, now numbering many thousands, young and old, housewives, school-teachers, school-girls, workers in

offices and shops, or connected with industrial enterprises, have sought and found the hour or two each week for this work of love. To the cause they have given intelligence and devotion. They have led the children into more comprehending lives and nobler actions; they, themselves, have thereby grown in sweetness of life and beauty of soul. As they have given freely, so they have received freely. In spirit and power, they are typified by the three women who have been placed under foremost responsibility in the Primary Association: Aurelia S. Rogers, the founder; Louie B. Felt, the first general president, and May Anderson, the present general president—all faithful, tender and loving, yet, intelligent, forward-looking and prophetic.

The Church of Christ must be useful to all of its members, and to all the world. It must be of present use, for salvation begins here and now. Therefore, the Church provides organizations and other means by which each person, according to his needs, may be helped into greater daily happiness. The Primary Association represents this essential doctrine of the Gospel, by giving to children week-day help in religious development. It has done its work well. May it be prospered even more greatly in the days to come.

W.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT—A TESTIMONY

THE ATTITUDE of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints toward learning and knowledge, couched in the language of modern revelation, is well summarized thus:

> The glory of God is intelligence.
> It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.

These are not empty catch phrases. They are eternal truths, and they have shaped the educational policies of the Church. In consequence, to-day the "Mormon" people are recognized as the most traveled, best educated people in the world, according to their number.

A recent statement received by the President of the European Mission from the United States Commissioner of Education, concerning the state in which Latter-day Saints make up approximately a two-thirds majority, bears interestingly upon this trend of thought. It follows in full:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF EDUCATION, WASHINGTON.

April 17, 1928.

To Education Officials or Others Who May Be Concerned:

The system of education in the State of Utah is a typical state system of education in the United States. The state is among two or three of the leading states in the relative effort that is being made by education in proportion to the wealth of the state.

A survey of the entire system was recently made by the United States Bureau of Education upon the invitation of the Governor and State Board of Education. This study revealed the fact that Utah ranked thirty-second among the forty-eight states in its ability to support schools, and ranked third in the effort being made. This significant fact is an index to the progressive spirit and complete confidence which the people of that state have in education.

All together there are approximately 135,000 children enrolled in the state, of whom approximately 110,000 are elementary—and 25,000 are high-school pupils. There are something more than 4,000 principals and teachers. The attitude of the people is progressive and forward-looking.

In addition to the public-school system there are a number of private and religious institutions scattered about over the state, but all of these elements, both religious and secular, heartily support the public-school system.

I am acquainted with conditions in all the states, having visited each state frequently. The people of Utah stand out among our representative and patriotic citizens.

(signed) Jno. J. Tigert,
Commissioner of Education of the United States of America.

Bureau of Education Seal affixed.

THE PRIMARY ASSOCIATION—SERVICE TO CHILDREN

Elder Weston N. Nordgren

Fifty years ago, the motherly sympathy of Sister Aurelia S. Rogers inspired her to organize the children of her neighbourhood into an association for religious and social betterment. Her zeal and activity brought the movement to the attention of John Taylor, President of the Church. He gave his sanction, and the first Primary organization was effected in Farmington, Utah, August 11th, 1878, with Sister Rogers as its president.

The aim of the Primary is to instil into the hearts of the boys and girls of Zion faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ—to make it a vital, active force for good—an integral part of their lives. Every lesson given illustrates some great moral truth. The children are taught reverence, faith in God, in their teachers and parents, in themselves; they learn thrift, courtesy, respect for law and order. They learn that blessings cannot be purchased with money, but are obtained only by willing service, sacrifice, generosity, unselfishness and faith in and obedience to the commandments of the Lord. The principles and ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are expounded to them in such a simple, direct, understandable way that they realize the meaning and significance of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; repentance; baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Hours for work and play are given under competent supervision. Home industries are encouraged. Boys learn to raise gardens, to feed and care for pets, to become efficient with their hands in "making things" of wood, leather and various other materials. Girls learn to sew, to apply themselves at home and to be useful to their mothers. Primary children learn to work and play with equal fervour, living the maxim that "whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well." They learn to avoid excesses in all things; to be loving, forgiving and charitable towards one another. By constant application in their daily lives of the tenets of their religion, these Primary boys and girls become imbued with courage, perseverence and a desire for progress and advancement.

Classes are held once a week. The exercises are short as befits the minds and bodies of the children. Simple testimonies are borne; the power of faith and prayer is portrayed in an understandable way; obedience, truth, honesty and loyalty are woven into the moral fabric of their lives.

At first, in the days of the infancy of the Primary work, the lessons for class work were secured from the Bible by each teacher. Scripture was memorized. The children learned the Ten Commandments, the Word of Wisdom, the Articles of Faith and other religious material. Later *The Children's Friend* magazine was published, which has subsequently proved a valuable assistant to the officers of the various Primary Associations. Within its pages lessons are given for each group of children, helps for teachers, a parents' department, and stories which bring out old truths in new ways, making appeals to the child to become firm in the faith, upright, sturdy and valiant in the cause of truth.

Songs, recitations, story-telling, simple prayers, short plays and pageants are taught and encouraged. The boys and girls are given things to do; and along with the work is given to them an insight and understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is uplifting and inspiring throughout their lives. Fairs are held wherein each child is encouraged to take part; he learns the value of work; he assists to make his Primary Fair a success, bringing joy to all. He feels the result of confidence placed in him; it brings him happiness. He feels that he is needed, that he is appreciated, and he treads life's uncertain pathway with a firm step, secure in the knowledge that he has a mission to fulfil, that he must pattern his life after the life of the Master.

Under the competent leadership of Sister Louie B. Felt, who was chosen President of the General Board of Primary Associations in 1880, and who recently passed away, the movement rapidly advanced. In the early days when the Great Salt Lake Temple was being built, the Primary donated money toward its completion. Under the direction of President May Anderson its growth continues. By means of an annual "nickle fund" officers

have traveled about among the various wards and stakes, helping, organizing and assisting in the Primary work. During the recent Great War the Primary organizations made and donated over 115,000 articles for soldier's kits, besides doing much good in connection with the Red Cross. War gardens have been raised by the children under Primary supervision which have proved a credit to the integrity and persistency of both officers and children. A Children's Home has been established wherein medical treatment is given to needy children.

To-day the Primary work is flourishing in all of the ninety-nine stakes of Zion, including the three Canadian stakes—Alberta, Lethbridge and Taylor—as well as the Juarez Stake of Mexico. All were represented in the gigantic Jubilee parade and pageant in Salt Lake City, on June 9th, 1928.

For fifty years it has been helping to make the youth of Zion into men and women of untainted character, true, valiant, staunch in their belief and with a fervent testimony of the divinity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The moral and ethical teachings of the Primary, coupled with the religious teachings of the Master, have brought about a betterment in the social, moral, physical everyday life of thousands of Latter-day Saints. Their lives have been lifted above the rut of commonness by the interweaving of religion and social education under proper supervision. The pattern set by their pure lives and lofty ambitions, their love of fellowmen, their honesty, their faith and trust in God, and their wonderful achievements, is as a light set upon a hill. It shines forth to all the world; it cannot be hid; and it has not been equaled by any other people upon the face of the earth in modern times.

TITHING PROPOSITIONS

The mental and physical endowments that one has constitute his capital, and all that they produce is interest, and this interest should be tithed.

The tenth of one's interest annually is the tithe.

Tithing is a complete settlement annually, and the losses from one year should not be carried over to apply upon the profits of the following year. The account is closed, completely, each year.

One tenth of one's unemployed time belongs to the Lord as tithing.

Tithing should be paid at such times as one's income is received, in order to be strictly honest with the Lord. It is a debt that is due and payable as one's income comes into his possession.

In the payment of tithing it is not the amount, but the payment of the honest tenth on one's income that counts, whether the amount be large or small. It is not a question, either, of how

much one's neighbour pays. Tithing is a debt of honour, and its payment is an individual matter between the tithepayer and the Lord.

In figuring tithing it is always best to figure with the spirit of liberality, for if we figure with a niggardly spirit we are not possessed of the true spirit of the faithful tithepayer, and it is always best to figure too much rather than too little. Tithing should not be paid grudgingly, but cheerfully and with a thankful heart.—From the *Improvement Era*, April, 1921.

LONDON DISTRICT INTER-BRANCH COMPETITION

A JUNE-DAY festival, held in the Holloway Branch meeting hall, Saturday, June 2nd, brought scores of enthusiastic spectators and participants to the Mutual Improvement Association Inter-branch Competition. There were in attendance District President Clinton L. Mills, Elder Ralph V. Chisholm from Mission headquarters, and all the traveling missionaries of the District.

Such a program was new for the District, and all participants worked diligently for the success of the day. From five branches they came, each worker wearing a bow of ribbon which designated by colour which branch he represented. The platform was artistically decorated with green and gold streamers, and added to the attractiveness of the whole affair. Each of the five participating branches entered the competition in a most friendly, sportsmanlike manner, and matched talents and wit in the following activities: Debating, public-speaking, essay-writing, poetic composition, dramatic readings and musical numbers, both vocal and instrumental. It was good to listen as the program proceeded. In the rendition of his part, each gave his best, and was improved for having done so.

The M. I. A. banner and a volume of the *Improvement Era* was awarded the Orpington Branch Association for having achieved the highest number of points. Community singing was conducted in both sessions, and included songs specially composed for the occasion.

CLINTON L. MILLS, District President

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Release and Appointment: At a special meeting of the Scottish District missionaries, held by President John A. Widtsoe in Glasgow on June 3rd, conference Sunday, the honourable release of Elder William Cooke, President of the Scottish District, was announced. Elder Carl W. Buchanan was appointed to succeed him as Scottish District President. This change was unanimously ap-

proved by the missionaries and members of the Church assembled in conference. Elder Cooke sailed for his home in America from Glasgow aboard the *Montclare* on June 9th.

Releases and Departures: The following missionaries have been honourably released and departed for their homes in America on the boats and days specified: Elder R. LeRoy Blamires, who has laboured in the Hull, Scottish and Sheffield Districts, released June 5th, sailed from Southampton aboard the *Leviathan* on June 5th; Elder James H. Cantwell, who has laboured in the Bristol and London Districts, released May 25th, sailed from Cherbourg aboard the *Leviathan* on June 5th; Elder Noble L. Chambers, who has laboured in the Leeds, Welsh and Manchester Districts, released May 25th, sailed from Cherbourg aboard the *Leviathan* on June 5th.

Arrivals and Assignments: The following missionaries arrived in Southampton aboard the *Empress of France* on June 6th; they have been thus assigned:

For the British Mission—Kelvin Alma Baldwin, Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Scottish District; Ishmael B. Jones, Eureka, Utah, to the Birmingham District; Jay M. Smith, Lehi, Utah, to the Sheffield District.

For the French Mission—Roger Fechser, Provo, Utah; Lorin E. Millet, Provo, Utah.

For the German-Austrian Mission—George Bird Jex, Salt Lake City, Utah; George Muhlestein, Provo, Utah; Joseph J. Weidner, Salt Lake City, Utah.

For the Swiss-German Mission—Alvin G. Carlson, Logan, Utah; Harold H. Frederick, Logan, Utah; Derryfield N. Smith, Washington, D. C.

Doings in the Districts: *Birmingham*—On Whit Monday members of the Handsworth Branch enjoyed an outing at Klent Hills. About sixty persons were present. A baptismal service was held in the Kidderminster Chapel on Sunday, May 27th. Two persons were baptized by Elder Kenneth H. Smith and confirmed by President Heber J. Matkin and resident Elder William L. Gittins.

Hull—On May 17th a baptismal service was held in the Sheffield Chapel, at which one person from the Gainsboro Branch of the Hull District was baptized by Elder Wesley B. Ward and confirmed by Elder Elbert C. Kirkham. A baptismal service was held at Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, in the North Sea on June 3rd, at which two persons were baptized by Elder Roy Allen and confirmed by President Veronus M. Jensen and Elder DeLamar Holt.

Leeds—On Saturday, May 26th, a meeting of the missionaries of

the Leeds District convened at 38 Park Square, Leeds, where commendable reports were given and earnest testimonies borne. Following the missionary meeting a District Union meeting was held. Reports of branch activities were received and instructions given. Elder Rulon D. Barnes from the Liverpool District was in attendance. Baildon Green was the scene of the Leeds District Sunday School outing on Whit Monday. This outing was followed by a lantern-slide lecture portraying early events in Church history and scenic Western America.

London—"Mormonism" was preached on Trafalgar Square on Sunday, May 27th. Many listened with great interest. Mention of the meeting was given in the *Daily Express* on the following day. On Whit Monday members and friends of the Holloway Branch, under the direction of Elder Joseph F. Parrish, enjoyed an outing at Parliamentary Fields, London. Members of the South London Branch visited Windsor Castle, Curfew Tower and Eton College. A meeting of the traveling missionaries convened at District headquarters on June 2nd. The District slogan—"For Results See London"—was discussed. Through many open-air meetings in parks and market-places fair hearing has been given and many friends have been made.

Newcastle—A baptismal service was held in the Sunderland Chapel on May 26th, at which nine candidates were baptized by Elders Richard L. Bird, Jr., and Seth T. Shaw, and confirmed by President Charles E. Alsop with traveling and resident Elders of the District. The Bee Hive Girls of the Gateshead Branch were presented with their pins and formally organized into a Swarm by Sister Leah D. Widtsoe at the evening session of the Newcastle District Conference on May 27th.

Norwich—Members and friends of the Norwich and Lowestoft Branches joined in a delightful outing at Normanston Park on Whit Monday. The afternoon was featured by a seven inning baseball game that was enjoyed by many spectators not of the party, as well as by the participants. A social evening of the two branches followed in the Lowestoft meeting-room.

Nottingham—Resident members of the several branches, together with their friends, enjoyed outings during the Whitsuntide season, at which games, sports and other recreations were held. A District Priesthood meeting was held in the Hucknall Chapel on June 2nd. Reports were given and helpful suggestions offered. A meeting of the missionaries convened earlier on the same day. In the *Nottingham Evening News* of May 21st an interesting article appeared, which commented upon Latter-day Saint street meetings in Nottingham. The account made favourable and fair comments about this phase of the work.

Scottish—One person was baptized by President William Cooke and confirmed by Elder Golden W. Stewart at a service held in

the Gorbals Public Baths, Glasgow, on May 26th. At a service held on May 29th at the Govanhill Public Baths, Glasgow, one person was baptized and confirmed by Elder Carl W. Buchanan. Prior to the Scottish Conference, meetings were held in the Edinburgh and Aberdeen Branches on May 29th and 31st, respectively, under the direction of Mission President John A. Widtsoe, who traveled from the Mission office at Liverpool with Sister Leah D. Widtsoe, Eudora Widtsoe and Elder Richard L. Evans.

Sheffield—The missionaries of the District convened in report meeting at Sheffield on May 28th. Matters concerning field duties were discussed. Following the meeting the group joined the Sheffield Sunday School on a ramble to Manor Park Estate. The children were awarded prizes for their participation in field events. The Sunday School children of the Barnsley Branch pleasantly entertained their parents and friends at a musical concert given under the direction of Superintendent John H. Moore. Awards were given them for efficiency in Sunday School work.

Ulster—Two persons were baptized by Elder Ervin R. Stoker at Helen's Bay, June 2nd. They were confirmed at Fast meeting on the following day by President Evan H. Jenkins and Elder Lovell A. Youngberg.

Welsh—On Sunday, May 27th, six persons were baptized at Llanover by President Nathaniel E. Parry and Elders David M. Davis and Edward E. Morgan. An inspiring outdoor meeting, attended by a large number of members of the District, was held following the services, at which confirmations took place.

DEATH

COOKE—Sister Annie Julia Cooke of the Stroud Branch, Bristol District, passed away on May 27th at the age of thirty-six. Sister Cooke had been a faithful and active member of the Church since her baptism in November, 1900. Funeral services were held at the family residence on May 31st under the direction of President Alma C. Tranter, who spoke, with Elders H. Gardell Jacobson and Reese R. Parker, and also dedicated the grave.

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